

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 2 Oct 2006. It was the 217th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors and guests present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL Bob Bunting, Co-Chair	CSM Charles E. Frye, Co-Chair
COL Charles A. Block (USMC)	CSM James W. Harris
COL Herman S. Heath	CSM William Jolley
COL James E. Hyers	SGM Lloyd M. Rogers, Secretary
LTC Clarence R. Collins	SGM Samuel V. MacMaster
LTC James R. Mellish	1SG Jackie Ray
CDR James E. Cobb (USN)	1SG John J. McCracken (USAF)
	SFC Joseph N. Barnes

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL William E. Crouch	SFC Bennett J. Jergenson
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GUESTS

CW4 Robert M. Cooper, USA, Ret

ADVISORS PRESENT

COL Michael Kaminski, CDR, USAAMC	Mr. Chris Moore, RSO
Mr. George W. Steuber, Dep. Garrison CDR	Ms. Lori Yerdon, PAO
Mr. Tim Laster, DMWR	Ms. Diane Snodgrass, AAFES
Mr. Mike O'Meara, Commissary	

2. CSM Frye called the meeting to order at 1135 and introduced CW4 Robert M. Cooper who then gave a brief biography of himself.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
4. Old Business – None.
5. Committee Reports.
 - a. Public Affairs - SGM MacMaster provided a calendar of events. COL Bunting

announced the country singing duo Montgomery-Gentry will be in concert at the Ozark Civic Center on 12 Oct 2006. Retired General Wesley Clark will be at Eagle Stadium in Ozark at 1700, 12 Oct 2007.

b. Legislative Affairs – COL Hyers reported that Congress passed the FY2007 Defense Authorization Act which included: barring the Defense Department from increasing any TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Standard fees, pharmacy co-pays, or TRICARE Reserve Select premiums for the fiscal year; dropped a proposal to mandate use of the mail-order pharmacy for all refills of maintenance medications. The Act also authorizes permanent ID cards for permanently disabled dependants of retirees and requires a Pentagon report on giving members an option to have their Social Security number left off of ID cards. The new act also restricts unscrupulous lending practices by imposing a 36% annual interest rate cap on loans to service members and adopted a 2.2% military pay raise. It did not make any changes to SBP, concurrent receipt, reserve retirement age or health care access.

c. Health Care – LTC Collins stated that Ms. Frausto asks the Council members to act as “tour guides” for the Health Fair. CSM Harris told everyone to “roll up your sleeves because the flu shots will be there.”

d. Volunteer Program – SFC Barnes reported a meeting will occur on 11 October to plan for next year.

e. Consolidated Club System – Mr. Laster reported the lunch menu will be changed starting 16 October. Unexpected funds recently obtained will allow the wallpaper to be replaced in the Aviators’ Landing.

f. Commissary - Mr. O’Meara reported the first shipment of turkeys came in yesterday. A cheaper brand of turkey will be offered this year with a limit of two per customer. There is plenty of Halloween candy on sale. Spinach has been cleared to sell again.

g. PX – Ms. Snodgrass reported the PX will start a Columbus Day Sale on Friday through Monday with huge savings on bicycles and on-hand Christmas decorations in the store. All shoes and clothing will be 25% off. Halloween costumes and candies are in the main store. On the 17th, the main gas station will close at 1900 to install new registers but the Shoppette will remain open until 2400.

h. Golf Course – Mr. Laster reported the Pro-Am Golf Tournament on 23 -24 September had more than 90 amateurs which had to be limited by the number of pros.

i. Equestrian Center - COL Heath reported an Open Horse Show Saturday, 7 Oct and Fall Horse Trials scheduled 14 – 15 October. The president of the US Equestrian Federation was here on the 4 September and he inspected the Center and made recommendations for improving the course to prepare it for the next level.

j. Outdoor Recreation - No report.

k. Bowling Alley - No report.

l. RAD - LTC Mellish had volunteers sign up for the RAD listing times and dates they could work. Ms. Yerdon stated there will be plenty of media coverage for the RAD

6. Advisors Comments –

a. COL Kaminski reported that he had ordered 1000 flu shots for the RAD and older retirees in the community. There are two strengths of flu shots, one for people under 50 which is a little stronger than the “over 50” flu serum. Although the Health Fair closes at 1400, flu shots will be given until 1530. He will be getting an update on the middle of October but does not anticipate a shortage. ID cards will be checked before flu shots are given. Pneumonia vaccine will be available but a prescription from a doctor is required. Pneumonia is the sixth leading cause of death in the US and is generally a secondary complication from flu in the older population. There will be golf carts to assist those needing help from their car to the Clinic. Informative classes will be given along with health related screenings and those with severe hearing losses will be given appointments with the audiologist.

b. Mr. Steuber reported the post had over a \$125 million dollars for FY 06 with \$20 million allocated for construction projects at Ft Rucker. A series of robberies had taken place targeting cars parked at the physical fitness center. A trap was laid and the perpetrators were caught which solved seven robberies. DA policy states that all persons in a vehicle coming on post be identified from a picture ID.

c. Mr. Laster reported a new system is being installed that will allow hunters to use the internet to locate areas that are open and allow hunters to check in and out electronically. AER will be sending direct mail to retirees asking for donations.

7. New Business –

a. The advisors were excused and the Council recommended that CW4 Robert M. Cooper be appointed to the Council.

b. CSM Jolley was appointed as Council Secretary to replace SGM Rogers who is retiring from the council after 25 years, 24 of those as council secretary.

8. Co-Chairman’s Comments - None.

9. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1250. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviators Landing on 2 November 2006 at 1130.

Retiree Council Minutes, 5 October 2006

Approved via e-mail

BOB BUNTING
COL, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via e-mail

CHARLES E. FRYE
CSM, Retired
Co-Chairman

Approved via e-mail

LLOYD M. ROGERS
SGM, Retired
Association Secretary



WILLIAM S. LARESE

COL, Aviation
Garrison Commander